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Letter dated 19 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I am transmitting herewith for your attention the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on the flagrant violation of the ceasefire regime by the Azerbaijani armed forces along the line of contact between Artsakh and Azerbaijan, in which reference is made to the statement of 18 May 2017 issued by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

17 June 2017

We express our deepest condolences to the relatives and fellow servicemen of soldiers who fell today and yesterday as a result of the flagrant violation of the ceasefire by the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the line of contact between Artsakh and Azerbaijan.

In their last statement, the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe condemned the ceasefire violations, identifying Azerbaijan as the first to open fire. It is with such provocations that Baku has reacted to this targeted statement, thus demonstrating its complete disrespect.

On the eve of the visit by the Co-Chairs, the high leadership of Azerbaijan is challenging the international community, first and foremost the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, by holding large-scale military drills without the relevant notification required under international commitments, continuously violating the 1994-1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements, as well as taking new steps aimed at the escalation of the situation. The absence of an adequate response could be perceived by Azerbaijan as encouragement for new adventurism.

It is obvious that Baku has failed to move the peaceful settlement process through its desired path and is now trying to create the illusion of gaining an advantage on the frontline, which is also doomed to fail and is fraught with unpredictable consequences, primarily for the side initiating the escalation of the situation.